

Docket No. 396.42856X00  
Serial No. 10/608,071  
May 22, 2006

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently amended) A process for producing xylylenediamine and/or cyanobenzylamine by a liquid-phase hydrogenation of a phthalonitrile compound in the presence of a catalyst, the liquid-phase hydrogenation being performed while controlling a concentration of a benzamide compound in a reaction solution to 0.35% by weight or lower, and wherein the hydrogenation is performed while further controlling a concentration of a benzoic acid compound in the reaction solution to 0.1% by weight or lower.

2. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of the benzamide compound in the reaction solution is 0.07% by weight or lower.

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the hydrogenation is performed while further controlling a concentration of a benzoic acid compound in the reaction solution to 0.05% by weight or lower.

5. (Currently amended) ~~The process according to~~ according to claim 1, wherein the benzamide compound is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of 3-cyanobenzamide, 4-cyanobenzamide, isophthalamide, m-toluamide, p-toluamide and benzamide.

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6. (Currently amended) The process ~~according to~~ according to claim 13, wherein the benzoic acid compound is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of 3-cyanobenzoic acid, 4-cyanobenzoic acid, 3-methylbenzoic acid, 4-methylbenzoic acid, benzoic acid and salts of the preceding compounds.

7. (Currently amended) The process ~~according to~~ according to claim 4, wherein the benzoic acid compound is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of 3-cyanobenzoic acid, 4-cyanobenzoic acid, 3-methylbenzoic acid, 4-methylbenzoic acid, benzoic acid and salts of the preceding compounds.

8. (New) The process according to claim 1, wherein said catalyst is selected from catalysts containing nickel, cobalt or palladium.

9. (New) The process according to claim 1, wherein the benzamide compound and the benzoic acid compound are contained with a starting phthalonitrile compound used in the hydrogenation, and the concentration of the benzamide compound and the benzoic acid compound are controlled by controlling contents of the benzamide compound and the benzoic acid compound contained with said starting phthalonitrile compound.

10. (New) The process according to claim 9, wherein the concentration of the benzamide compound and the benzoic acid compound is controlled by a purification treatment of said starting phthalonitrile compound.

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11. (New) The process according to claim 10, wherein said purification treatment is a distillation process.